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MAX HAIVEN 2018-05-25

ARE YOUR CHILDREN OLD ENOUGH TO LEARN ABOUT MAY '68?

DOCUMENTATION, NONPOLITICS MAY 68, MEMORIZATION, RADICAL EVENT, REVOLUTION, UTOPIA

RECALLING THE RADICAL EVENT, REFRACTING UTOPIA, AND COMMONING MEMORY

This essay is a meditation of the problems of passing on the memory of radical events to forthcoming generations and the problem of making memory common. As the first generation of the twenty-first century comes of age amid multiple overlapping systemic crises (economic, social, ecological), the struggles of the momentous twentieth century pass into realm of memory and memorialization. But today, politicizing the memory of the past to thicken the radical imagination
is more important than ever. Ours is a moment when a combination of material and cultural factors have conspired toward a forgetting or eclipsing of radical memories, where, at the so-called "end of history," the past is recalled only to affirm the inevitability of the present.

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